

TO: David Gray/Mary Peterson

FROM: Janetta Coats/Community Liaison Lead

SUBJECT: Daily Report

DATE: Sept. 9, 2017

SUMMARY:

Counties open for EPA support:

Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris County (may cancel EPA support), Jackson, Jasper, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Victoria (may cancel EPA support), Beaumont/Port Arthur and Wharton.

Victoria County:

The Victoria Co. EOC has sufficient coverage and does not need EPA assistance embedded at the EOC. Operations there are wound down.

- Victoria Co. would like assistance with information for the public on mold and mildew remediation for commercial and residential properties. (“We don’t know what to tell people.”)
- Victoria Co. would like assistance with information for the public on restoration of private drinking water wells after flooding and power restoration.
- Victoria Co. would like assistance with information for the public on restoration of private septic systems after flooding and power restoration.
- Victoria Co. Health Dept. is interested in a potential back-up lab for F. coliform and E. coli testing in case they need assistance.

Harris County:

- Made contact with the City of Houston EOC and Harris County EOC

Spoke with Darrin Larson about possible city departments that are doing community clean up.

Visited city of Houston’s EOC and received information regarding sites to use for outreach to impacted communities.

Continued contacting EJ community contacts to inform of mobilization to Houston and availability of EPA support for community efforts where feasible.

Contacted community leaders and discussed needed areas of support for the community

Visited impacted communities

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Some community are still drying out. Request for sampling equipment (i.e. air buckets)

Community members want to know if there has been testing of waters impacted by chemical spills. If testing has been done what are the results of the testing?

Environmental Justice Coordinator:

- Began initial contact with EJ community contacts. Informed of mobilization to Houston and availability of EPA support for community efforts where feasible.
- Reviewed approved EPA handouts to determine best applicability to address community needs.
- Toured the county donation distribution center with Cynthia Jameson since the county thought that might be a good way to assist. Met the organizer and expressed our availability to help share information with the public. Agreed that we would be available 9/9 from 8am to 1pm when the center was open to the public.
- Organized with the county to prepare an approved flyer on mold safety which includes county specific information and prepared 700 flyers for distribution. Helped the county locate existing published information from the EPA and CDC websites to support a news release discussing areal mosquito spraying.
- Went to the county donation distribution center and helped hand out cleaning supplies and included flyers on mold cleanup after disasters. Made contact with several community leaders to discuss community needs.

- **Victoria and Nueces**

Traveled 125 miles to Victoria County EOC (205 N. Bridge St., Victoria, TX) and before arrival were asked to meet with Rick McBrayer (Emergency Management Coordinator), Mary Tanguma (County Health Department Lab Manager), and Tammy Fikac (County Health Department Environmental Health Supervisor) at the County Public Health Building (2805 N. Navarro St., Victoria, TX). We discussed their needs for support.

- The Co. Health Dept. is offering free drinking water testing for those with private wells in Victoria, Dewitt, and Calhoun Counties. About 15,000 households in Victoria Co. use private well water. They've had ~30 samples/day and can handle 160 samples/day. There is a private lab nearby, B Environmental, that can do the test, otherwise County Health labs in Austin and Corpus Christie. They haven't done a big push on advertising this service yet, so they expect to get more samples in the weeks ahead.
- The county had been on a boil-water order which was lifted two days ago. The county gets its drinking water from groundwater, river water, and surface water.
- The best ways to get public service announcements out in the Victoria community is by TV, newspaper, and radio. The county uses websites and Facebook also, but recommends not relying on the web or social media to reach people in this community.

- After the meeting we called in to Janetta Coats and received instruction to clarify explicitly whether there was a need for EPA support in the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). We traveled back to the EOC on Bridge St. and met with David Gonzalez (Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator) to discuss their current EOC status and need for assistance.
- Upon learning that the EOC is essentially stood-down, we returned to the Region 6 Laboratory (10625 Fallstone St., Houston, TX) staging post. In the afternoon we met with fellow team members and had another conference call with Janetta Coats and Diane Taheri where we learned about Region 6's plans to offer free private well water testing for F. coliform. This entails assembling 1000 sample kits over the weekend and distributing them in our assigned counties at locations determined and coordinated by us. An EPA mobile lab will visit 11 cities in the impacted area to accept the samples. We were given a new county assignment (Nueces) and left a voicemail with the Nueces Emergency Management office regarding establishing contact.
- What time this weekend are we getting flash drives to load up with .pdfs of informational resources for the county(ies)? (Since there are constraints on printing copies due to the Paperwork Reduction Act.)
- What informational resources does EPA have on recovering septic systems after flooding that we can share with the public?
- What informational resources does EPA have on recovering private drinking water wells after flooding that we can share with the public?
- What informational resources does EPA have on mold and mildew remediation for commercial and residential properties after flooding that we can share with the public?
- How would Community Liaisons coordinate generating public service announcements on these topics?
- What is EPA's specific mission assignment for this response under ESF 8?
- What is the schedule for the EPA mobile lab in the 11 cities?
- What are the specific tasks for Community Liaisons mentioned on the call with Janetta Coats and Diane Taheri?

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

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Nueces County

Spoke via phone with Christopher Boyce, Nueces County Emergency Manager. We discussed their needs for support, which are none at this time. They are handling EOC ops with existing staff and are focused on debris management and individual assistance. He noted that most of south TX is served by the South Texas Water Authority which provides drinking water from surface water. Mr. Boyce noted that he does not speak for all of Nueces Co., and suggested we reach out to the City of Corpus Christie (Billy Delgado 361.826.1100) and Port Aransas (Rick Adam 361.749.4111). Upon learning that the EOC is essentially stood-down (Level III), we continued work at the staging post.

- Water sample kits were assembled from lab supplies provided to the team. Approximately 200 kits were put together by Community Liaison staff at the lab post.
- At 4:45 pm we called contact numbers for Corpus Christie and Port Aransas. The Corpus Christie EOC is stood down and they have no current need for US EPA assistance. We will follow up when we have information resources to share on mold, etc. We reached City Hall of Port Aransas and will follow up tomorrow between 8am-5pm to assess their need for assistance.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Nueces Co. does not need US EPA assistance at this time.
- City of Corpus Christie does not need US EPA assistance at this time.

• COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- No new concerns today

Beaumont/Port Arthur

- Met with Hilton Kelley, a local EJ activist to discuss current condition of the EJ communities in Post Arthur.
- Met with community members who have been affected as they came into Hilton Kelley's restaurant for a free lunch.
- Met with CIDA's communication representative to draft a proposal for joint-outreach with Jefferson County officials
- Made calls to Jefferson County's Office of Emergency Management – who referred me to Port Arthur Health Department and Beaumont Health Department to assess possibilities for a collaboration. Plan to meet with both cities on Monday
- Toured the most devastated neighborhoods.

- Visited a shelter to talk with nurses and key organizations about the needs of the community – related to the environment. They mentioned cleaning supplies time, and time again – and perhaps information about indoor environmental hazards.
- Volunteered at the Queen of VietNam Church to get to know that section of Port Arthur. Community members asked mentioned that information be in their language as well.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

We need to develop outreach and communication strategies should after assessments are completed. We should be able to do more than leave weblinks and a few pamphlets.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Stated above.

Matagorda County

Re-visit County 9.10.2017 to determine if assistance is needed.

Galveston County:

Being surveyed

SUMMARY OTHER CONCERNS:

- Nueces County EOC is wound down, Level 3, and does not want EPA assistance
- Nueces County Emergency Manager referred the Community Liaison (CL) coordinators to local Emergency Managers in Corpus Christi and Port Aransas
- We are researching which counties are offering free water testing for residents with private water wells. At this some of the CL's believe that Victoria, Aransas, Nueces, and Brazoria Counties are offering this service.
- 18 new Assets arrived checked in with Logistics and received secondary badges at Bravo Command Post
- Received and reviewed outreach materials related to mold and IAQ
- Resource request submitted for: thumb drives, cameras, and EPA logo shirts
- Created a SharePoint page for CL daily reports
- Received and began assembly of water testing kits

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- CL should check in with county Facebook pages as several of them have their resources posted. Ex: Calhoun County has a FB page with all donation centers, shelters, mosquito control practices etc. listed

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- Information on mold and mildew remediation for residential and commercial properties

- Information on recovery of private wells after flooding
- Information on recovery of private septic systems after flooding
- Information on backup analytical service for water testin (F coliform, E. coli)